



#44

# LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

*The Queen Of Paradise*

# Guava Chiffon

**Foto Feature**  
**Esprit**  
**2000**

**FlashBack**  
**with Ms Bob.**

**David**  
**DeAlba,**  
**Pt. 2**

**How To:**  
**Contour &**  
**Highlighting**

**Little Known**  
**Facts About**  
**Hosiery**

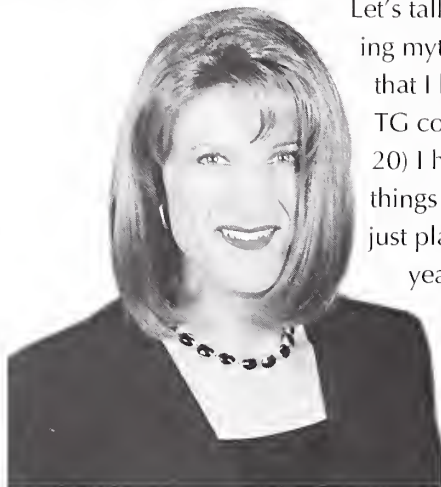
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**...and photos, photos, photos**



# Letter From The Editor



Let's talk about some crossdressing myths. Over the many years that I have been a part of the TG community (I just turned 20) I have heard all kinds of things that range from dumb to just plain dangerous. Many years ago, along with Ms.

JoAnn Roberts, I visited Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique in New York City. Lee herself told me that people would call all the time asking if Lee's

had "pills that make you a woman." There are no pills that can make you a woman! Ideas like that are promoted in part by plain old ignorance, plus a little mystification. Crossdressing "literature" has used the magic transformation pill as a standard plot device for years and years. Remember, fiction is one thing and reality is another. The only kind of pill that can give you female secondary sex characteristics (read breasts and softer skin) is a hormone pill and it will take more than one of them to achieve results. Taken without medical supervision, feminizing hormone therapy can result in a lot of negative side effects such as, increased risk of heart problems, liver damage, stroke, and other things that would seriously inhibit your femme fun. It's hard to be a party girl when you're in a hospital bed.

No, no magic pill will make you into a perfect female who passes completely at all times without a lot of other work. Even approved feminizing hormone therapy will only produce as much breast development as you are genetically predisposed to. Hormones will not take away your beard or body hair. Some form of hair removal will still be necessary. (There's no bigger turn off I can think of than hairy breasts.) Hormones will not change your voice. Once the vocal cords are set for bass they will not change. You can alter your voice but only by practice, practice, practice. And, lastly, the desire to crossdress is driven by your libido. If you take feminizing hormones and they suppress your sex drive, you may not even feel like putting on your low cut dress.

What about the "herbal estrogens" you ask? Myth? Well, if you take a lot of Black Cohosh you may affect your hormone balance to some extent. You may develop some slight breast sensitivity, even a little plumping... but you are not going to magically become a female bodied person. Some older folks may have better results since their testosterone production has fallen off naturally as they passed a certain age leaving less masculinizing hormones to compete with. So, if you are an older TG person who has developed a set of double-Ds on herbal phytoestrogens, don't tell me I'm full of it. You are an exception, not the rule. Most of you are throwing money down the drain when you stock up on herbals.

But hormones and their effects are only one area where crossdressers fall for falsehoods. Whether you are a CD or part of the general population, the rule is always — let the buyer beware. I once fell for an advertisement that claimed a breast prosthesis was so realistic no one would know that I was wearing it, even in a low cut dress. The photo in the catalog actually showed a torso with bare breasts and implied that you could get away with that. Not using my head, since I was obsessed with the idea of wearing these breasts and going out for my first Halloween adventure, I ordered them. When they finally arrived a couple of months late, not only were they completely unrealistic but they were so hard you could crack walnuts with them. Fortunately, I woke up from my obsessive haze and called my credit card company. I sent the breasts back and the charge was removed from my card. I can't believe the number of crossdressers who, even when dealing with a TG oriented business, will just put the things they bought that either didn't live up to the advertising or just didn't fit (now there's a myth, "I'm a size six, really, I am") in the closet and not bother to send them back for a refund. If you ordered a rifle and when it arrived it didn't shoot straight you would call the dealer and demand a refund. Why on earth would you order something for your femme self and then not demand satisfaction if it didn't meet your needs?

Other myths? Not really a myth but more of a self deception is the old "No one knows I crossdress." Chances are if you have people you are close with and you have been taking steps to look better as a girl, they are probably aware that something is up. Plucked brows and shaved legs will be noticed by those close to you, not to mention your latest cosmetic surgery. Our culture is not really big on talking about things (unless we do it on national television) and often a wife, mother, or sibling will suspect that the man in her life is wearing women's clothing on the sly. But, they leave it alone and do not discuss it. In the long run, it's not the easy way out. Honesty is the best policy.

I wish that I had been honest with my parents many years ago. In fact, I find myself wishing that I had been caught in one of my early CDing adventures with mom's clothes. While it would have been painful for them, and for me, at that time, it would now be ancient history. Years ago, my parents would have had the time to deal with it, however they dealt with it, and the consequences would have been long over. Now, they are in old age and if they were to learn of my crossdressing there would be very little time to get through any emotional storm.

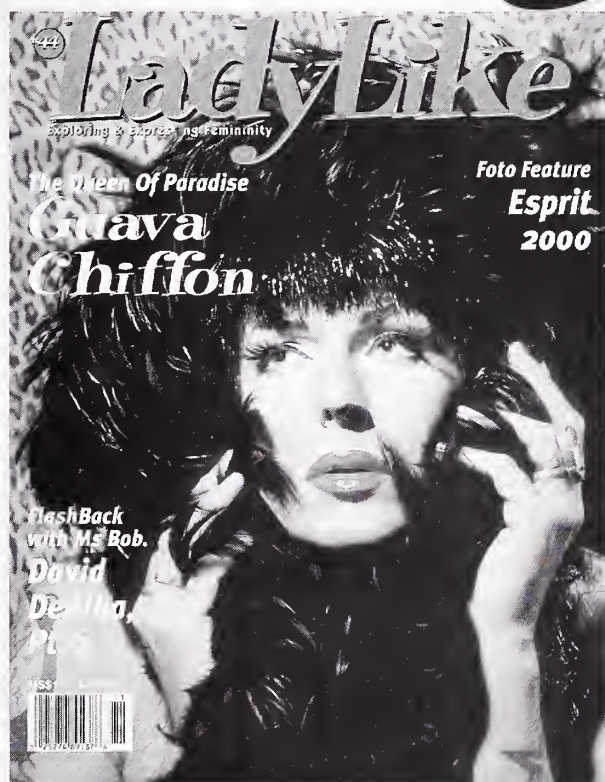
Oh, there are lots of other things that we should discuss, but there's too much to cover in this letter, and I know you're getting impatient to read the rest of the issue. So, I'll let you go with just a final word on myths; if it sounds too good to be true, it's probably not true.

Don't take any wooden nickels and I'll see you next time. Enjoy!



# LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity



Cover photo ©2000 Rick Allred

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# Guava Chiffon

Height: 6'1" in flats  
(big girls=big fun)

Weight: a delicate 180 pounds

Shoe size: Queen (12)

Dress size: off the rack, I like a 14, but can squeeze into a 10

Favorite clothes: Being an ex-Las Vegas showgirl I have a passion for glitz and glam. I like feathers, beads, mirrors, leggy show stoppers ala Ann Margaret. I also like "reworking" vintage pieces (okay, thrift store gems) and making a trend setting fashion statement with them.

Favorite things: Latin lovers! Music and live performance. Sun and Surf. Travel, writing, good friends and an amber gel on my spotlight!

Least favorite things: Homophobia (boring), ignorance, Christian Right, muddy pumps and sock titties.



# The Queen of Paradise

**LL: Tell me Miss Guava, how did you ever end up as the most fabulous girl on Maui? Start at the beginning.**

Guava Chiffon: I was born (a boy) in South Carolina. I lived there for about a year, and spent most of my childhood traveling about the country with my family. Very vagabond like. I fantasize that it was a life similar to those who traveled the vaudeville circuit. I made my first Academy Award acceptance speech at the age of 7. I knew as a young boy that I wanted to be an actress. I have pictures of myself in my grandmother's wig and pumps holding a statuette. I wrapped myself in a white sheet (an attempt at haute couture) to deliver my acceptance speech.

**LL: Sounds like there was show biz in your blood.**

GC: Yes, I caught the bug for being on stage early. I did several theater productions in grade school, and knew the glamour, the lights and "theatrical experience" was for me. So I, like many other child performers, used to stage my own reviews. I'd cast my sister and her friends as my back up singers and dancers. I was always the star.



**LL: There's no doubt that you're a star now. Tell us more about your youth. Did you have any scary experiences involving drag?**

GC: I remember around the age of ten I was dressing up in some costumes with another boy. We stumbled across a couple of ballgowns and preceded to go running about in the fields/woods behind our house. We had just watched a swashbuckler movie, I believe it was *The Three Musketeers*, and I was in a Raquel Welch stupor. As we were running through the woods, some classmates (4 or 5 other boys) saw us and began chasing my friend and I through the woods. There we were, running through the trees and bushes in ballgowns. I remember that my thoughts as I was being chased were not of fear, but how fabulous and dramatic it was to be chased in this gorgeous gown, and how I wished it was being filmed.

**LL: What happened when the uncultured ruffians caught**  
*continued on next page*





***up with you? They had the advantage since they weren't in heels and gowns.***

GC: They caught us and we wrestled a bit with them before being saved by a neighbor. My gown was a mess.

***LL: Any problems with parents during the early years?***

GC: Once my father busted me for wearing a bra under my shirt. I got scolded and was told that boys just don't do that (dress up in women's clothes).

***LL: Oh, I've heard that one too. Pshaw, I say. If you don't wear the bra when you're young how will you learn to be fabulous later in life?***

GC: Oh girl, I realized at a young age that a boy in a dress gets a lot of attention. We had settled in the midwest at that time and I was not content with my mid-western humdrum lifestyle. I wanted to be noticed. I went to high school in Kansas. To say I had visions of Oz and what lay over the rainbow is an understatement. Every life drama, every quiet moment, every salty adventure was a scene from my life story. My story... starring ME! Everything was in the context of a play or movie or script.

I was a drama princess and I just knew that one day I'd get out of that hick town, make my way to the big city and be crowned Queen.

***LL: When did you leave the small town life behind?***

GC: I moved to Denver to go to college. It was there that I met my first real gay friends.

***LL: How did you go from a boy college student by day to a fabulous drag artiste by night?***

GC: One night one of my gay friends who happened to be my hairdresser dragged me into the bathroom and "drag raped" me. He forced the eyeliner and lipstick on me, and despite my resistance and repeated pleas for him to stop, I emerged from the bathroom transformed.

From the first time I put that wig on I was a hit. Everyone told me how fabulous I was. I was flawless! I worked it, I was beautiful. Nobody had to tell me I had star quality, I knew that. But beautiful? Who knew?

***LL: Judging by the Guava of today I'm sure you were fabulous. How did you get started in drag shows?***

GC: I started to dabble in shows around town, entering contests and putting in my time as a back up girl to some of the reigning divas at the time. I knew, however, that the days of playing the chorus girl were soon to come to a close. I knew from the start that it was about being a feature not a fixture. My first drag name was Lana Kane, a cross between Lana Turner and my then idol Erica Kane. I enjoyed some success at that time (19 years old) and became popular with the community. I participated in some Imperial Court functions, too.





**LL: Were you a member of the Denver Court?**

GC: My first and only court title was *The Imperial Princess of Love* representing the Imperial Court of the Rocky Mountain Empire. I loved that title, it sounded so regal. Still, 15 years later I fancy myself a Princess of Love.

**LL: There's no doubt about that. Just look at you. How did the college queen make the move to the big time?**

GC: A friend of mine was in the process of relocating to Las Vegas where he had just been hired to perform at the Riviera Hotel in *An Evening at LaCage*. I drove the U-Haul there with him and hung out in Vegas for the week. In the process I met Frank Marino (LaCage's Joan Rivers) and was offered a job as his dresser.

The Vegas scene was far more fabulous than my life as a student in Denver. I ditched my journalism aspirations and jumped onto the showbiz bandwagon. LaCage was the perfect place to learn the craft of female impersonation, especially character impersonation (i.e., Cher, Judy, Barbra). I'd dress my "wicked stepmother" (Frank) and then hang out down the hall in the other girl's dressing room and watch how they did their makeup and styled their looks.

**LL: It's the perfect show biz story, pretty young assistant dreams of stardom.**

GC: Yes, I was Eve Harrington and I knew one day I'd have my big break. Well, what do ya know, one day a



queen fell out sick and I just happened to completely know her number (with blocking/choreography), and I literally stepped right out onto the stage after a simple audition between shows. I was fabulous. Without bone structure and posture, you're mud pie on the showgirl circuit. I had both. Of course I am a bigboned girl, (6'2" in flats) but that only enhanced my fabulousness as far as I was concerned.

**LL: It's a showbiz dream come true! But what about after the big break?**

GC: I went on to perform regularly as Cher and Barbra and in the showgirl opening (my fave) for the next year or so. We did three shows a night, six nights a week. It was a vicious grind. Now, I know why Judy fell apart.

While I was in Vegas I entered the Miss Gay Las Vegas Pageant at the Gypsy night club. Kenny Kerr hosted the event. As they were getting ready to announce the winner, somebody gas bombed the building and it burned to the ground. It was all so very "Carrie." Needless to say, I never entered a pageant again.

**LL: Some people will do anything to sabotage beauty and talent. What did you do?**

GC: LaCage was in the process of reorganization and they wanted to send me to Atlantic City to work in their show at Bally's. I knew that Atlantic City was not for me and

*continued on next page*







I had family and connections in Hawaii, so I decided to give that a try. The routine and pace of the Vegas lifestyle had worn thin, as had my nerves, so the idea of life in paradise required no second thought, whatsoever. I thought that when I got to Maui, I'd retire for a bit, find a husband and settle down. That was not to be. I moved there in 1989 and immediately got involved in a community theater production of *La Cage Au Folles*. I was the showgirl consultant and was given a small part since the show was already into production and had been cast. The show was a hit, and so was I. With my Vegas experience and production know how I soon made a name for myself.

**LL: Now there's a good question. How did you make the name *Gauva Chiffon* for yourself?**

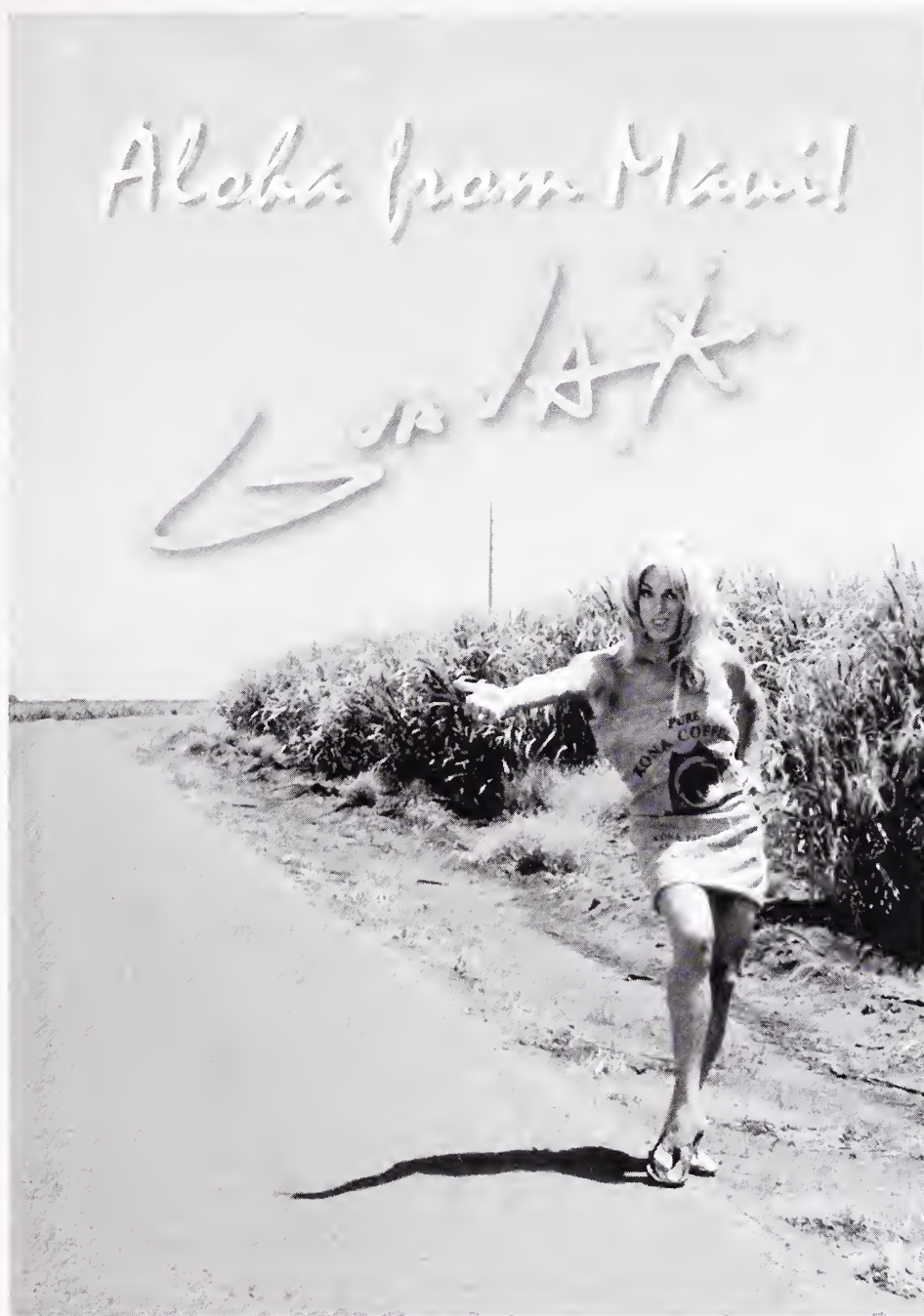
GC: You gotta have a gimmick and that was one thing I had. I played with some different names: Cherry Poptart, Anita Cocktail. But it was Guava Chiffon that finally stuck. It was a perfect name for a big blonde girl in the tropics who

had one leg firmly planted in frou frou. I kinda fancy myself the *Lady Bunny of the South Seas*. Well, Maui is a small town in the middle of the pacific ocean and had never seen the likes of a girl like me. I started there and soon made a name for myself throughout the state.

I started a group called the *Cosmetix*, Hawaii's Premier Performance artists and we secured a plum gig at the hottest local nightclub. On Sunday nights (for years), we performed our own little blend of big-boned thrills and chills. The show was more of a variety format then a traditional drag show. We spotlighted all sorts of local talent; dancers, singers, and, of course, gender illusionists. It was during this time that I really honed my skills as an emcee and stand-up comic. We soon went on to perform throughout the state at shopping malls, fundraisers, conventions and numerous burger joints and two-bit honky tonks. It was our celebrity look-alikes and comedy that set us apart from the drag that was already happening in Hawaii. The other girls here were mostly trannys and very "real." I was neither. Even though I looked "pretty" I still was a big man in a dress and didn't pretend to be anything else.







**LL: Oh Guava, don't be so negative. You're the sexiest big boned girl I know.**

GC: Thanks, baby! Our show spawned many girls who were fabulous in their own right. Two of my "daughters" who have gone on to celebrated careers are Maui's Candis Cayne, now one of NYC's most fab divas, and cybermistress Vida Deville who currently resides in Los Angeles.

**LL: Tell us more about your personal achievements.**

GC: I've had many fabulous and scandalous things occur in this little old career of mine. Some of my exploits received heavy press locally and nationally. I don't want to toot my own horn too much, so let's just say that I'm a showgirl at heart.

**LL: Do you prefer female impersonator or Drag Queen?**

GC: You can call me anything you want. I'm not bogged down by labels. I'm certainly a drag queen, though, and proud of it. It's only within the past 5 or 6 years though that I've really acknowledged what I do as an art form. I'm into exploring the "art" of female impersonation, and know by the reactions from the people who see my show that I'm bringing to the stage something that indeed has some social significance. The issue of gender and androgyny has always intrigued me, and I enjoy sharing my smile, aloha, and joy of entertaining with the masses.

It disarms people to see drag done well. A lot of people have a real stereotypical take on the whole thing, i.e., perverse, vicious, subversive. My mission is to bring it into the light and keep it out of the shadows, throw a spin of love on the whole thing (very Maui of me). I want to make people laugh and feel good, and to celebrate diversity.

I perform in front of children quite often, and am always sensitive to the particulars of my audience. Barney in Drag. What's there not to love? I can still be wicked if the event calls for it, but I prefer the wholesome route.

**LL: What's going on with you currently?**

GC: I have many things in the works at the moment. I'm off for a month to Thailand and then have some shows on the mainland.

**LL: I know our readers would love it. Let's do this again soon and share a little more of the Queen of Paradise with our LadyLike readers.**

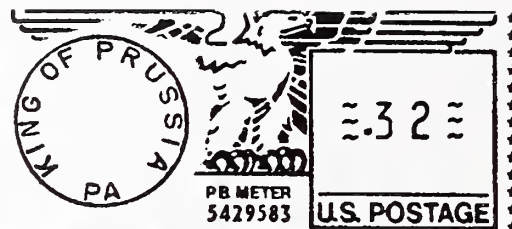
GC: I'd love it. Aloha and mahalo.

**Note:** All of Guava's photos for this issue were taken by Rick Allred, PO Box 330152, Kahului, HI 96733. We thank Rick and Guava both for such great pix.

LL



# Letters



## A Most Fortunate Crossdresser

Oh my dear, I am tardy in my renewal, here I am replying to your April (2000) letter. I do have a very good excuse. I had just remarried after the death of my late wife. I had only just came out to her in 1995 after 20 years. She was tolerant of but not a part of Lori. I had been dressing in secret for over 40 years, when I came out.

I did not believe I would find another woman that would even want me as a CD. Then this lady came into my life 18 months ago. This time I was not going to hide who I was. Early on, I revealed my CD side to her. She did not reject me, but listened to something unknown to her, and had an immediate understanding of all the aspects of this. So much so, she seemed to have a better handle on it than most CD's.

Lori is very much a part of our relationship, which I can only describe as a very special love my new wife has for both sides of me. She senses my needs when Lori needs to come forth. So, I am one of the most fortunate crossdressers having a completeness in my life now. A very real contrast to all those years living in fear of exposure and ridicule.

I commend you on trying to keep CD's from running amuck, thinking they have to shoot their bodies up with hormones to be femme, to be a girl. If it is not there inside of your spirit, your mind, hormones sure won't put it there.

God bless, Lori #3446

## Wonder Woman of Support

I have been a subscriber for more than a year and have enjoyed every issue you have published. Every page is filled with charm and grace. LadyLike is a fabulous magazine of immense assistance to all of us transgendered lady-like persons. Thank you so very much for all the beautiful sisters you display along with the supportive commentaries by both Angela Gardner and JoAnn Roberts.

I have been dressing in women's apparel since the tender age of 12. I remained in the closet from 1969 until of 1995 at which time I came to the realization that the woman in my mirror was indeed my true self.

Legal separation in 1999 has given my feminine self more freedom. The support of my understanding parents, and LadyLike has been a Wonder Woman of support. Thank you for every bit of information that opened the door to understanding of the power of the plant worlds strength to feed the human body with all its needs.

Keep up the fabulous job of putting out the world's best magazine for men who love to dress like women. LadyLike is an Angel on earth to all who explore and express our femininity.

Bobie Ava Patterson

P.O. Box 3260, Frederick, MD 21705-3260



## Learned A Lot from LadyLike

I've been subscribing to your magazine now for almost a year and just had to renew my subscription before my current one runs out.

You girls have really captured the heart and soul of the t-girl community with your articles and with the letters sections where we girls can share our feelings and thoughts. I know I for one have learned a lot about myself in your magazine. The main thought that I have learned from my tg experience is why women like looking beautiful for guys. It is true that part of it is for positive attention and to be appreciated, but, the main reason is to feel good about themselves and to enjoy life (which is very similar to us t-girls). It's funny how we as humans need to learn from our experiences and this is especially true about us t-girls (Anyone want to share any good makeup tricks?)

Please feel free to print my enclosed picture and my email address. I promise to do my best to answer all sisterly and proper e-mails.

Susan <sue4u29@aol.com>



## Attended College Drag Ball

I am writing to you to let you know how much I enjoy reading your magazine. My only regrets are that I am missing issues, 1, 2, 4-8, and 11-13 and that I did not subscribe earlier. Oh well, my mistake.

This past April I attended a drag ball at Oberlin College in Ohio. It was my first outing at an event like that. I enjoyed myself very much. I can't wait until next year. I enclosed a Polaroid photo of the outfit I wore that night. My makeup and wig were done by a local makeup artist and hair stylist. The outfit is a little bit gaudy, don't you think?

I want to apologize to all my sisters for not writing





the past 18 months or so. I had to stop due to some unfortunate family illnesses concerning my father. I would very much welcome the opportunity to re-start our correspondence.

Please write to Diane care of  
D.F.N., POBox 155, Wellington, OH 44090

### Foxy Roxy As a Role Model

A few months ago I saw a copy of LadyLike and I've been hooked ever since. I bought two back issues recently and that prompted me to get a subscription which I did a few days ago. Since #38 is sold out, if anyone has a spare copy please let me know because I'd like to read the profile on [Foxy] Roxy, who is one of my role models.



Michelle  
Lampron

I'm 36 years old and still closeted at the moment. I've only been out on Halloween so far and had a blast each time. I just love to wear short dresses and mini skirts because my butt and legs are what I consider to be my best features.

I'd love to hear from other sisters and women (If there are any who read this magazine) near and far. I'd like to go to clubs, but this girl isn't too brave.

You can publish the photo I've sent and I'll keep watching the mailbox to meet new friends.

Michelle Lampron, 95 Robb St.

Valleyfield, Quebec, Canada, J6S 3T2

### Happy To See Her Pictures

Since purchasing my first copy of your wonderful magazine a few years ago I have become an avid

Jessica M.



reader and supporter of LadyLike. Your magazine is the best on the market. The articles are informative, the interviews are always interesting, and the pictures are of high quality. But above all, you magazine personifies class. That's why I have been so happy in the past when my pictures have been published in LadyLike. I've been sent many interesting letters by your readers and I have made several good friends as a result of this correspondence.

The cover girls in two of your past issues are quite remarkable. The pictorial and interview of Lori Larkin was incredible. The picture of Lori clad in white stockings, looking over her left shoulder is the sexiest picture of a TV/CD I have ever seen. Another issue profiled a mother (father) and daughter (son) couple. Both ladies were very pretty – with a strong family resemblance!

My only "complaint" about LadyLike is that it is not published as often as it should be! Is there any thought about publishing every two months?

Jessica M.

PO Box 6120, Newport Beach, CA 92658

Angela responds: There are no plans at this time to publish more often. By keeping it like it is we are able to hone each issue into its own little jewel. More issues a year would mean less time to work on it and therefore more rough edges.

JoAnn says: Bimonthly is a tough schedule and we just don't have the staff to keep up that pace. By the way, I really like the blonde look.

### Struggling But Coming Out More

I'm writing again to thank you for your terrific



Barb  
Roberts

magazine. From cover to cover, it's the best there is. Your articles and columns are well thought out and have helped me to better understand our world and the lady-like experience. I like your Mirror-Mirror section best of all because you display pictures of your readers (not professional models but girls I can relate to) for us all to enjoy. Thanks.

As a mid-40s CD I've struggled with my sexuality but have begun (again) to try to come out more. I still haven't been out publicly but I did have the opportunity to get together with a friend of mine for a photo session. I've enclosed some pictures from that adventure (which I found to be very exciting) which I hope you'll find suitable to include in a future issue. It would be so exhilarating to see myself in your magazine – I can't imagine.

Anyway, I'm interested in meeting other CDs or others who enjoy CDs, in the Baltimore-Washington area, so if you print my pictures please include my address.

Barbara Roberts, PO Box 6372

Baltimore, MD 21230

### Has A Lot Of People To Thank

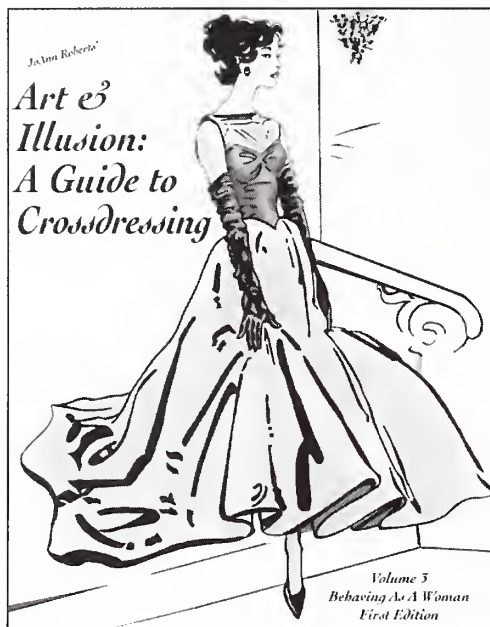
My name is Alison and I just got back from the Southern Comfort Conference (SCC) in Atlanta. It was my first time out of the closet and your magazine helped me do it. I've learned to become a lady and I want to thank you for that. I would like to tell you about a lady there, her name is Mara Keisra, and she is a staff member of SCC and a great person. If the world had more Maras out there it would be a much better place and I can't thank her enough.

I'm sending a photo for Mirror-Mirror and I can't thank you enough for making me a lady. I do mean that with all my heart. One more thing, Brenda Lawrence had a lot to do with me being able to come out. I can't thank her enough.

*continued on page 13*



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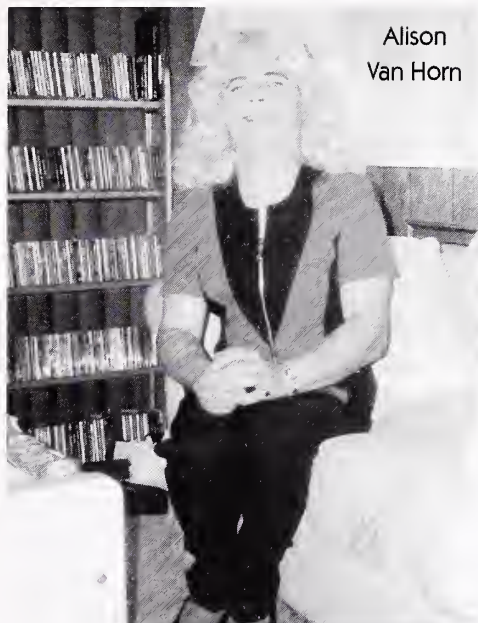


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## Letters...



Alison  
Van Horn

Issue #43 was great! I also wrote to a few ladies and never got anything back but also made a lot of new friends, too. All in all, you have the best magazine, the name says it all!

I'm a single parent and still buying school clothes but in a month or two I would like to send some money to the Transgender Fund. I gave some money at Southern Comfort but I don't know if they are the same fund. I believe all of us sisters need to stick together.

Well, I better go for now. Thank you again for your great magazine.

Alison Van Horn, PMB 350, 15 Paradise Plaza,  
Sarasota, FL 34239-6905

### Brenda Made Her Do it!

I have just finished reading your last issue from cover to cover and loved every page. Keep up the good work! It's so refreshing to see a magazine dedicated to exploring femininity without all of the nudity and X-rated advertisements. What we girls like are honest articles relating to our feminine side.

I am enclosing a couple of photos of myself. My good friend Brenda Lawrence talked me into sending them. She feels that I am good enough to pass, although I think I have a long way to go. Please



Melissa R.

publish my address with my photo. I would love to correspond with all of the girls out there.

Melissa R., PO Box 91893  
Elk Grove, IL 60009

Angela says. Ms. Lawrence is correct about that passing thing. The other residents of Elk Grove must feel pretty good to have a lovely lady like you in their midst, unless you have been hiding your beauty by not going out in public. Just look at her pretty smile, girls.

### Mirror-Mirror Is Her favorite

I am a recent subscriber but longtime reader of your wonderful publication. At the moment I am a closeted CD who gets most of her thrills vicariously through your magazine. Hopefully, one day soon I will have the skill and confidence to express my feminine side in public. In the meantime, I can't tell you how comforting it is to know that there are so many of my sisters out there.

The Mirror-Mirror section of LadyLike is my favorite. I am fascinated with the lovely images of the ladies who grace those pages. I recently found the courage to write to several, some of whom were kind enough to reply.

The various articles and letters concerning dating are of particular interest to me. Being relatively new to this, I can't claim to be an expert on this subject. I do know that as I become more secure and comfortable with my femininity, I will definitely consider meeting socially and perhaps having a relationship with the proper gentleman. I'm certain that I intend to be safe and sensible about it! More articles and feedback from others would probably be of considerable interest to a good deal of your readers.

Well, time to go. I would love to hear from my sisters or other men and women who are interested in our lifestyle.

Thanks JoAnn and Angela for providing us with such a great source of information and forum to express our thought and ideas.

Joanna, Indiana FWD#3930

Angela replies. Don't worry about skill and confidence Joanna, the clock is ticking. There's only so much time that we have to enjoy our femme sides and the more of it we spend in the closet the more we regret it later. Find a support group in your area. (See the listing on page 38.) Get out and meet other people face to face and get their help in perfecting your femme side. After all, "Mr. Proper" can't be found hanging around your closet. Have fun and, as always, be careful.

### We Goofed & Apologize

Hi girls, it is me again, Jane of Northwest Florida. I hope that all is well. I got issue #43 on the 12th of October and was very happy. Of course, I am always as "nervous as a street walker in church" waiting for your classy magazine.

Now, down to business. Will you please forward my letter to Cindy L. JoAnn you asked if anyone had a back issue of #38 with Foxy Roxy that Cindy would love to have. I do have that issue and Cindy can have it for free if she sends me an address. I write to Roxy and I feel like she is my kid sister. Gee, how things

Jane



change when you put on a little lipstick and a skirt.

With all due respect, would you please give me Dianne Kendall's correct PO Box number. In #43, in the Letters section, it is 725135. On page 28, the box number near her photo is 125135.

Here I thought that I was the only gal who didn't get very many letters returned, like one out of ten. I realize the only thing some of us gals have in common is putting on makeup and women's clothes, but we should all have common courtesy. I can see that common courtesy is not all that common, however. I can understand if somebody writes back and says, "Thanks but I don't have time," or if they'd say, "Go to the devil," or "Kiss my rear end." That would be at least something other than nothing.

Here is one of my latest photos of this 66 year old broad as a blonde. So long for now take care and keep up the good work.

Jane, NW FL, FWD#3675

JoAnn responds: Yes, Jane, I owe Dianne Kendall and anyone who tried to write to her an apology. Dianne's correct box number is 725135. I got it right this issue.

### Knows She's Not Alone

I decided to write a letter thanking you for helping me understand myself. After all of these years of confusion and doubt, I now have a sense of why I feel the way I feel. Your magazine has shown me that I'm not alone. I am sitting here, writing, wearing a bra, panties, garter belt, stockings, high heels, red wig, makeup, and a yellow tank top with a pleated skirt. I can't explain the feelings I have right now. I have been dressing up like this now for just a few months.

My wife knows of my activities and tolerates it but does not want to be around when I dress. Several years ago, after 17 years of marriage, she decided she hated oral sex. To me, this was the most intimate part of our marriage. Since that time I have explored my feminine side and expanded on crossdressing. Like your other readers I started out at an early age. First I tried on my sister's panties and girdle. This was a real turn on. Once, while everyone was gone from the house, I tried on a bra, panties, garter belt and stockings. What a high! From that day I was hooked. Bras were not much of a turn on until recently and the thrill of getting completely dressed up didn't happen until a few years back when I turned 40. I am now 46.

*continued on page 15*





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## Letters...

I would like to go out dressed, but my wife would go ballistic if I tried. I am not gay as I'm attracted to women only. I just like dressing. I just finished LL #41 and the Mirror-Mirror part with "Babe in Lingerie" was a real eye popper. Please have more of this in future issues. The girls in your magazine are far prettier than others I have dared buy. You magazine is great!

In the LL #41 the editor asked if we are nuts. Sometimes I have to wonder. Why would a man do this unless something was wrong upstairs? Well after reading the article, I now realize everyone is a little nuts, but knowing who we are and why we are helps bring a little sanity to it all.

Sorry I can't send you a photo but knowing someone will read this and understand helps a great deal. Today was a big day for me. I finally got the nerve to buy makeup, the pleated skirt and pink tank top. This was a thrill, even though I did it as a man. I feel so alive dressed up. I now understand what Brenda Lawrence is trying to say in her articles.

Well, enough for now. I'll keep buying LL and keep up the faith. Thanks for listening. Maybe someday I'll read my letter in LL, but realize with no picture to accompany it, it won't appear.

Sincerely, Cathy Jean

Angela sez: Surprise! Where did you ever get the idea that a photo was required? Many girls are not yet ready to share themselves with the world but they need to express their thoughts and feelings. That's why we have a Letters column.

What I'm going to say now is in the nature of "tough love" and I know it will be difficult but... try to make your wife sit and talk with you about your crossdressing needs. When she told you after 17 years that she didn't like oral sex, she was not saying she just decided it wasn't fun, but that she had been doing it without enjoyment because you wanted it. Similarly, you must try to make her understand that you had been holding back on your crossdressing in the same way so that she would not be upset by it. Openness in a relationship is often not an easy thing to achieve and it is sometimes necessary to get professional help to work on your relationship. There are marriage counselors and sex therapists available who could help you and your wife to a better level of intimacy.

### Another Roxy Fan

Just received my latest issue of LadyLike magazine and found it very good, especially Foxy Roxy's article. Like Roxy, I go out dressed, but to the mall, and men hand me notes and try to pick me up but I say No. (A girl has to be careful.)

I also go to the hardware store dressed and get helped right away. I don't even have to ask. When I go as a man, it's hard to get helped.

Cindy

Angela replies: It's true Cindy, a good set of legs and some blonde hair will get you the proper size pipe fitting every time. And you'll get help with your hardware needs, as well. Okay, I'm bad but I couldn't resist. Have fun!

Cindy



### LL Warms Her Feminine Soul

Enclosed are a few self-portraits I'd hope you'd publish. You and your staff continue to be consistent, informative, entertaining, and (what I like best) featuring so many photos of everyday CDs/TVs/TGs, that it warms my feminine soul to be reminded, in my relative isolation, that there are so many girls out

Carlotta



there in various degrees of exploring and expressing their femininity, too. And some really humble my CD-ego and make me feel sometimes that I'm not worthy. Anyhow, thank you for being there for us, and a special thanks to Angela whose labor of love we are the quarterly recipient of, and the entire staff, too. Please don't publish this note as it would take too much time to correct my grammar. I would rather be desired for my feminine charms than for my sense of humor. What girl wouldn't? May your open girdle be as snug and uplifting as mine is this moment. I wish all the very best to those who may not have had the experience yet.

Carlotta Marie, PO Box 222, Glenford NY 12433

JoAnn says: You didn't think we'd see through that flimsy plea of yours not to print your letter, didja? Well, sorry, but here you are and your grammar ain't so bad, but, you could work on that smile. Besides, when a letter comes in late like yours did, how else we gonna get your photo in the mag?

### A Move Not Anticipated

Well, I'm finally in my new hometown, Columbia, South Carolina. Enclosed are some new pictures for Mirror-Mirror. (I always worry you will run out of prints to run because I know my sisters are all too shy about sending them in.)

My apologies to anyone who may have written to me at my old address (Louisville, KY) and didn't hear back. This move to SC was not anticipated.

As always, I look forward with delight at receiving future issues of LadyLike.

Dee Sinclair, POBox 210841, Columbia SC 29221

Dee



LL





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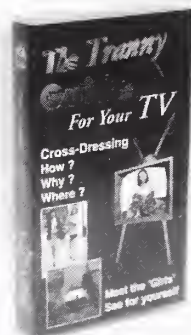
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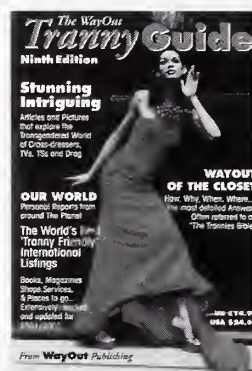
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# Esprit Gala



▲ (l. to r.) Jackie, Kim & Elaine



▲ (l. to r.) Beverly, Suzie, Fannie & Stephanie

Visit the Esprit website for info on the 2001 event  
<http://www.espritgala.com/>

▼ Stephanie(l) & Barbara(r)



▼ Christine (l) & Karen (r)



Esprit is a regional transgender event held in Port Angeles, Washington, hosted by the Emerald City of Seattle, the Northwest Gender Association of Portland, and the Cornbury Society of Vancouver BC. In its eleventh year, this year's gathering hosted 141 girls from 18 states and provinces, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, California, Texas, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, Hawaii, and British Columbia. In addition, Jennifer came all the way from the U.K. to join in the fun! One of the girls has attended all 11 Esprit events, while there were over 75 first time attendees, too. This year, 5 girls attended on scholarships made possible by the generous donations of the vendors.

*continued on next page*



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# Esprit 2000



▲ Beverly (l) e³ Ariel (r)

Esprit's symbol is a beautiful butterfly, reflecting the change that many undergo during a tg-conference. They start the week in a cocoon; learning and growing along the way, until they emerge a beautiful butterfly at the end of the weekend, ready to spread their wings into the real world.

This year Esprit expanded its format from five days to seven. There were over 50 workshops, with topics ranging from Crossdressing 101 to Transitioning, to Feminine Voice, plus a special program for couples attending with their significant other (SO). Several vendors were also on hand to teach us about wig care and styling, makeup, jewelry and accessorizing. There were also well known doctors available for consultations on plastic surgery and SRS.

Schedule: Monday's event was a beach dinner and party at the nearby Dockside Lounge. It featured dancing, Karaoke, and a chance to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. Tuesday featured a shopping trip to Victoria BC, with a 21 mile ferry ride across the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and customs both ways. As an alternative,

some went golfing at the Dungeness Country Club. Wednesday's big event was a Casino night with a 50's dress-up theme. Each participant was given \$30,000 in play money to for the tables. Thursday's Karaoke night brought out the performers practicing for Friday's talent show. Friday featured a new event for Esprit, a "Talent Show" Part of the program featured the Port Angeles Light Opera Association, with 20 local performers singing and dancing their way into the attendees' hearts with their surprise finale number, singing Cyndi Lauper's "Girls just wanna have fun"!

Esprit's showcase gala event is reserved for Saturday night at the Naval Elks Club. All decked out in their finest dresses, and after a wonderful meal of either

salmon or prime rib, each of the girls attending Esprit for the first time was called to the stage for a graduation ceremony. Each newbie receives a beautiful butterfly pin from her big sister or SO, along with a candle that allows her feminine spirit to shine brightly to the world. After the ceremony, it was time for more dancing to our favorite DJ, Dynamite Dave.

Sunday there is a farewell brunch for all the remaining girls to say their good-byes.

What will this next year bring? There is always something to learn at Esprit. Sometimes it's in the workshops, sometimes it's from friends, and sometimes it's from the vendors who help out so much. But mostly, the learning comes from within oneself. Being open to the possibilities of your transgendered nature, and the beauty within, allows you to really accept yourself and others.

We hope you will be able to attend for 2001. Go online to <<http://www.nwart.com/espritest/>> for the latest information.

(This article was adapted from a piece Kelly Hansen wrote for Transgender Forum. Used with permission.)

LL

▼ Karen (l) e³ Christine (r)





# Esprit 2000

▼ The girls singing "R-E-S-P-E-C-T"



▲ Suzy

*Esprit photos courtesy of  
Kelly Hansen, Christine, Claire,  
Suzie, & Suzanne.*



▼ (l. to r.) Kelly Hansen, Nicol, Trish



▲ (l. to r.) Suzie, Elaine, Claire







▲ Marsha (l) & Stephanie (r)



▲ Rochelle



▲ (l to r) Tina, Karen, Kathleen

▼ Deidre



▼ Claire (l) & Kelly Hansen (r)





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## *A Dark Day In August... Indeed*

(Yawn.) To be honest, the day ahead didn't shape up to be a great one. On the contrary, Friday, August 13th, began in very typical fashion. (The usual insomnia, followed by the janitor's loud, loud music, followed by...) So, what else was new?

Having typed out a poem, yours truly (en drab) flossed/brushed/shaved/etc., in preparation to send off Rosey's letter and pick up some essentials at the supermarket. Well, at least, one concern showed promise; my eyebrows were growing back! Mail? One envelope, an official Revenue Canada bill for Can\$228 in back taxes Whoop-dee-doo!

It was raining, but, hey, armed with my trusty umbrella and reasonably watertight Reeboks, I should be okay. Not!

About ten minutes walk from the Rockland Centre the moderate rain stopped and the real downpour started. I mean there was no escaping it. Trees didn't shield me. No public buildings were in the area, no apartment complexes. No shelter of any kind. And, while the umbrella did its job, I quickly found myself drenched from the waist down especially the sneakers! (Not again!)

I had two choices: continue my trip to the mall to buy the bagels, spring water, dessert, coffee filters, and bathroom tissue; or abandon the mission altogether in favour of rushing home to change. I went with option one, side stepping several wide, ankle-deep, puddles along the way. (I spewed out more than my share of expletives, a fact I'm not particularly proud of!)

The air-conditioned Metro store was chilling my soaked body so I rapidly gathered up three items (forsaking the bagels and toilet paper), paid, and left.

My feet were wet... really wet... yet, if I hurried, I could be home within five minutes. Off I dashed, only to be forced to circumnavigate another of the aforementioned mini-lakes! Crossing the street I was stunned to discover another huge body of water in my path! (Aw, #\$X=~/\*!!) Apparently, the sewer system was backing up and there was no way I could pass.

Returning to the parking lot, I commandeered a taxi figuring the minor expense would be more than offset by my avoiding possible health risks. (A similar situation in Quebec City in 1977 netted me a nasty eye inflammation.)

The driver didn't respond as I asked whether I should sit in the front or rear seat. He Just sat there. But, as soon as I made a move for the rear door, he told me to sit in front. The man seemed to be clearing a place to sit at snail's pace, so I suggested that he step it up since I was getting even wetter.

Somehow, he complied and I climbed in. (#X%-~/\*!!!)

As we drove off, I noticed the passenger window was down and he wasn't raising it, even though it continued to rain cats and dogs (and squirrels, and gophers, I might add). I pointed out the fact and he nonchalantly closed it with a touch of a remote-control button.

In a couple of minutes, we pulled up in front of my building (which appeared to be in the midst of a power failure), and out I hopped... right into another ankle-deep puddle! (#\$%=~/\*!~!) Yes, the certified chooch had parked next to the pool without bothering to warn me!)

*continued on page 27*





# Mirror Mirror



▲ Nicole Shelby, Minn.  
FWD4011

Ms. Monique Elliott, PO Box 4345,  
Tequesta, FL 33469 ▼



◀ Jan, Gloucestershire  
UK, FWD3723



▲ Guava Chiffon, Breeze Bergan & Arinna (all from Hawaii)



▲ LadyLike publisher  
JoAnn Roberts



▲ Rachel Storm, PO Box 2295,  
Pahoa HI 96778

Felicia & friend, So. Fla. ▼





# Send Your Photo!



▲ Rachael Simms, NY



▲ Patrick Jaffier, 1 Passage des Italiens,  
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▲ Ruby Santiago, 12472 LK Underhill  
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▲ DFN, PO Box 155,  
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Alison Robins ▼ AlisonCD@aol.com



Janet Matthews, Milw, WI  
FWD3863 ▼

Breeze Bergan, PO Box 10322,  
Lahaina HI 96971 ▼



Dianne Kendall, PO Box 725135,  
Atlanta GA 31139 ▼





# Perfecting Your Feminine Image

## Part 3

No matter how beautifully applied your makeup is, no matter how great your outfit looks on you, until you've got your wig right, you'll still look, more or less, like a guy in a dress. All of us have a hair style, length and color that really brings out the girl in us. Finding that just-right combination is the challenge we all face. I can't even begin to count the number of wigs I've gone through in the past 50 years trying to find the look I wanted.

We all face the same problem as we aim to perfect our feminine image. Finding the ideal wig used to be a long and expensive search, but now there are so many TG friendly wig shops, plus the monthly TG meetings and the many annual TG conventions where you are able try on various styles that vendors bring along. But, I did it the old fashioned way, trial and error.

If you are anything like me, your first wig was one of those \$5 fright wigs you got as a kid for Halloween. It really was a fright, too, wasn't it! Back when I was young (here come the war stories), there just weren't any inexpensive wigs available; anything decent was major money. Back in the late 60's, after my wife discovered my secret, we happened upon a halfway respectable wig in a local K-Mart. Both she and I worked with it until it looked pretty good... compared to the fright wig. Considering the rest of my look was just so-so, it was workable enough to give the appearance of a feminine image. Looking at those pictures today is enough to cause serious injury from laughter)

Back then spending \$200-\$400 for a quality wig just wasn't feasible. And a cheap wig looked just that... cheap! Today, for under \$70, you can look as good as, if not better than, a real women with real hair. Apparently, real women have discovered this fact, too, judging from the vast number of wig companies. While I'm sure we TGs have had some impact on sales volume, we can't be the only reason for this explosion of choices. And, order one catalog from one company and within months you'll be getting them from nearly a dozen.

I don't think you can find your color and style without being fully made up and dressed. I'd gone through wig after wig looking for the perfect image — short, very long, shoulder length — but nothing seemed right. Mostly I stayed close to my natural hair color, a medium brown. I finally bought a wig from Fredericks' that looked really good, but was longer than I wanted, around 8" below my

shoulders. At that time, I also started venturing out for evening rides in my car. That's when I discovered all the problems with really long hair, like having your hair caught in the window when you crank it up, or getting it caught between your back and the car seat, or having your wig pulled off if you lean forward.

I went back to shorter wigs but kept them around shoulder length. I asked my wife for help in styling them and she did a lot better than I. Still, I wasn't totally satisfied. Having now bought from Fredericks, other catalogs started showing up. My big moment arrived one day when I got a wig catalog from Franklin Fashions. After browsing through the pages of wigs, one caught my eye. It did seem to have

*continued next page*





## Brenda Lawrence

possibilities and was just the right length. Off the order went for a medium brown wig.

In short order, I had my new wig and was soon able to try it out. Trying to copy the style in the catalog was frustrating; it wouldn't cooperate. In near anger, I moved the part off to one side, fluffed up the top and sides, and the results nearly floored me. I just about had the look I wanted. I'll bet I fussed with that wig for weeks, always getting it better and better. I was so pleased with the results that I ventured out in public for the first time. And, as you all know, once you've been out you can't get enough of it.

Somewhere around this time frame, my wife accompanied me to a local Tri-Ess meet. There were a couple of wig vendors there, and my wife suggested I try on some of their blonde wigs. She felt I might look younger as a blonde. She was right and I bought one. Though it was much shorter, it looked good with some of my sportier outfits. Still, when I went out dressed, I always wore the Franklin wig. Each time I went out, I asked my wife to critique my look. She'd bring up the blonde wig or something about a blonder look. What do wives know? I was happy with my medium brown.

After nearly of year of this, I finally ordered the Franklin style I loved in a medium golden blonde. It had to be every bit of three weeks after receiving the wig before I was able to try it on. I wasn't pleased with how I looked, nor did the wig seem to sit right on me. I put it away for a couple of months. I felt I was pretty hot looking in the medium brown.

The pictures I took confirmed my thoughts. I sent some photos to *LadyLike*, they got printed and the letters started. Every now and then I'd bring out the blonde wig and give it a go. Each time it seemed to lose some of the tight curl from the shipping package and combed out better. I still went out in my medium brown, though.

One Friday evening, I believe it was June 10, 1998, I had the house all to myself and an intense desire to dress. I decided to work with the blonde wig. As fate would have it, I was low on my favorite shade of makeup but did have a darker shade that didn't work with my darker wig. This shade did work with the blonde wig, though, and encouraged, I really set to work on styling it better. I worked on it until the wee hours (read that as Saturday morn), and when I stepped in front of the full length mirror I was stunned! My wife was right! I was meant to be a blonde.

I couldn't wait to show my wife, but that was hardly a good idea at 1:30 am. In fear of losing the "Look," I actually slept fully clothed, makeup, wig and all. (Boy, did I have sore earlobes from wearing earrings all night). In the morning I touched everything up and called out to my wife to come see how I looked as a gorgeous blonde. Even she never expected how good I looked and I heard the first swear word ever pass her lips. Her advice that Saturday morning was, "You better not go out looking like That!"

This time, though, I didn't follow her advice. 

Write directly to Brenda Lawrence, PO Box 423, Huntley IL 60142

## Roxanne Van Ness

The meter indicated, as I recall, Can\$3.45 for a crummy half-mile voyage. After fumbling around in the dark (the sunglasses not helping), I handed the nitwit Can\$4.25, and told him to keep the change. (In retrospect, I wonder why I tipped him. Still, my intention, purely and simply, remained to get upstairs... fast!) Of course, he didn't thank me. (Methinks his bungalow featured a vacant attic.) Too bad I wasn't dressed in feminine finery. I'd have readily given said hombre the lady finger!

As I scurried to the entrance, I asked myself why I'd even considered taking a cab. Hell, I wound up even more drenched than if I had crawled back! Anyway, the lights suddenly came on (fantastic timing!), and I bounded up the staircase to the third floor.

After struggling out of my clinging-wet clothes and hanging them up to dry, as well as putting away the few groceries I'd purchased, I did what any irate, red-blooded crossdresser might do. I plucked out my eyebrows... again. Less than an hour later, this onetime sample of soggy

masculinity had been transformed into one decidedly-exotic Deneece Halfkenny-Phillips\*.


(Something had to be salvaged out of all this, after all. I'm not superstitious, and Murphy's Law hardly seems logical. Really, do you believe I'll ever permit my brows to reestablish themselves?)

You know, looking back, I should have hauled that obnoxious cabbie out of the vehicle and ripped out *his* eyebrows five and ten at a time.

Postscript. As if to cap off a splendid 24-hour period, the base finally broke off my photoflash unit effectively neutralizing the balance of my in-progress photo shoot. I plodded on regardless, albeit with a reduced sense of purpose. (Pictures snapped under tungsten lighting, while possible, definitely lack a richness of colour.)

Major bummer! Or, rather, #X%\_&/\* !!!

**Roxanne (GWEN)**

***Girls Without Eyebrows... Now!*** 

*\*We're sorry but the photo of Deneece was not good enough to reproduce.*



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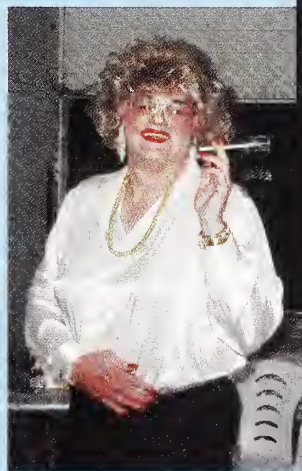


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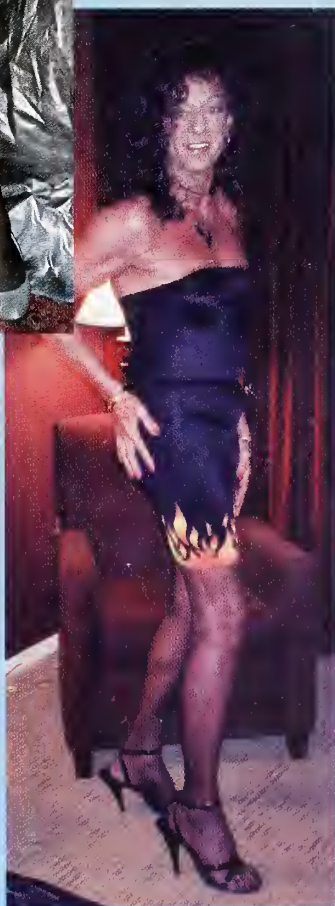


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# That Lady Is Me!

Rachael Simms

Rachael



In New York City, across Fifth Avenue, opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral, sits a statue of Atlas supporting the world. I, too, feel I am sharing that burden. You look at knock-out, drop-dead gorgeous real girls and ask, "Why not me?" I would even settle for looking plain-vanilla. So, what happened; a slight plumbing problem? Then, how come I like women? According to some theories, my X and Y chromosomes experienced a disagreement.

Okay, I am not going hungry, my roof doesn't leak, and I have a great family. All is not really that bad, but there is still a problem. Time to make decisions, even if it means walking the fence.

We all are familiar with the drill; dresses at five, girls at twelve, and why in the hell am I this way? Purges and guilt are familiar bags. According to society, I am not normal. So, it's off to the shrink. That was a farce. Next time, I'll buy a bunch of sleeping bags for the homeless.

Enough! I am not crazy! I provide for my family. I am good to others. I wrote a novel and I paint. So, my mind does not always match my body. Oops, its transgenderism, or whatever the dickens they call it. Oh well, the mind still accomplishes quite a bit, and I am still me!

When the decision was made to live as I wanted, spending as much time as I could as a woman, the rules had to be learned. A woman takes shorter steps. Elbows are kept at your side in order to create a feminine swing. Legs get crossed, and we smile at people. This I like!

Now that a course is set, I cannot go crazy trying to look like a movie star. Hey, I am well over fifty. Just let me be a woman. The blonde wig days are behind me. With help from the "miracle box," I am able to convert my face in 20 minutes to Ms. Joan Q. Public. You dress to blend in.

Rachael goes out quite a bit. She still has trouble with a phone voice, but outside, when it walks like a duck and

looks like a duck; it is a duck. I have engaged in conversations, used the powder room, and blended in just fine. Although, occasionally getting an older gentleman's smile, the true test is when children believe. I have arrived.

Shopping is done in office garb at night. I enjoy dressing like a day in the office, not too dressy, not too shoddy. It isn't unusual to stop by a K-Mart or A&P for a few things after getting out of work late. Suits, dresses, or skirts are the uniform of the day. Leave the ball gown at home. Cooler weather is the best. I just love long plaid skirts and boots. Sweaters and soft breast forms make a believer out of anyone. If it is a Saturday, I dress down; shorts, slacks, or a skirt works well. Easy on the eye shadow, a light lipstick, toned down earrings, and you are practically invisible. One can run in for something at the Buy Rite, or CVS on the way to a night out. Just remember, you are a lady; act as such.

I have done dinner a few times. Believe me when I say the waitress or waiter just wants to be nice so she/he will get a big tip. Who knows what color panties the host may be wearing? The only point of caution; cut your food into small pieces, and do not belch.

Most of us want to be a "10." Sorry ladies, the secret to success is realism. Be all you can be, but know what you are. You masculine folks do not despair. Take a look around at the mall. With the right equipment and confidence it is possible to pass. Getting read got you nervous? Let them go scratch. They are not paying your rent. The world is populated with large mannish women. Fear not for we are feminine by choice, n'est pas?

Many ask why we do it. Why do you eat, why do you breath, why do you cry? Only you can answer for yourself. I feel normal and at peace. Face up to the fact of what you are then, thank God for your ability to walk, see, and love. Realize life is short.

My wife and children know, along with my younger brother. I do not shove my lifestyle down their throat. If they want to talk, it gives me a good feeling. The choice is theirs.

What is down the road for Rachael? I would love to live 24/7 for a year to find out where I am actually. Hormone therapy is a definite desire. In the same vein, I will never give up my spouse. The children are workable. For myself, I know what I would like. I also know what the limits are. Yes, I just pierced my ears. One small step for womankind.

Walk down the street, and look around. That lady is me! She is trying to walk the fence.

LL



# An Interview With David DeAlba – Pt. 2

Last issue we presented talented, Cuban-born female impersonator David de Alba, a living treasure in drag. David's stories included memories of his first years in shows in Chicago about thirty five years ago, and recent video shoots for international Spanish channels like Univisión and Telemundo. Along the way he's appeared in virtually every media market imaginable. In 1969 he was even on the cover of the super market tabloid *The National Insider*. For about fifteen years from the early 1970's to mid-'80's he performed at San Francisco's world famous Finocchio's.

It isn't surprising that someone as out and about as David has met many stars and celebrities. While in Chicago, David appeared on local television several times, once with Christine Jorgensen, who was then, as probably now, the world's most famous transsexual.

**David de Alba (DdA):** It was on *The Chicago Show* at a big TV station, either 5 or 7. One of those major networks. It was a talk show. They had a few female impersonators on; some used to work at a club called *The Blue Dahlia*, one from *The Nightlife* and I was representing *The Chesterfield Club*. Christine Jorgensen was the star attraction. I got to talk to Christine before the show. When I told her I was doing Judy Garland, she said, "You know, Heri, (David's birth name) when Judy was playing in Las Vegas, she was slightly heavy, I was the one who suggested to her to wear the Mandarin jacket. It's cut with a high neck, short in the front and long in the back. That was my idea I gave to Judy, to wear this kind of cut to make her look thinner." Christine was very charming, very elegant. She wore some kind of a cocktail dress with some kind of fur trim around her wrists. That's the only time I got to meet her. I was very lucky.

David also met Judy Garland, his idol. She was coming from her dressing room heading to the back of the theater where her limousine was waiting. David told her that she was his first female impersonation. And throughout the years, no matter what



other characters he's performed, his heart belongs to Judy. He has "an eternal devotion to her memory." He's a collector of Garland memorabilia and an authority on the star-crossed star. In the late 1970's he attended the auction of Judy Garland's possessions in Los Angeles and was photographed by *People* holding one of Judy's jackets, one with a high neckline, just as Christine had suggested.

David is more than a female impersonator. He's a female originator, too. Using his own lovely, feminine voice and dance training he created the character Boy-Chic. During the interview he wanted to be sure I got it right, "that's spelled 'chic,' like girl, not 'chick' like chicken." OK, I get it: female impersonator = 'chic,' but why did he want to create a new woman, when there are so many wonderful stars to mimic?

**DdA:** Boy-Chic is my own, personalized, international act. In Chicago I started singing in Spanish and doing Broadway songs. The act didn't have a name



then. They just said, "Here's Heri del Valle, alias Judy." But when I went to Finocchio's they said, "We don't want you to do impersonations of anyone. We want you to be yourself." So I did just that! My partner and I were watching an old movie from the 30's and we heard somebody called "boy-chick." It sounded like a Polish name or something, so, I took the name of "Boy-Chic."

(Note: David might have heard Yiddish in that movie. In Yiddish a man or boy might be called boychik or boychikel. It "is used with affection, even admiration, the way people say, 'That's my boy,'" according to authority Leo Rosten in *Joy of Yiddish*. Rosten also notes that boychik can mean "a sharp operator.")

**DdA:** When I came on-stage as Boy-Chic, I was able to sing as David, not Judy or Liza. I could do the songs of Nancy Wilson or Shirley Bassey or my Cuban singing idol Olga Chorens. Or even do some of Judy's songs, but not necessarily be made up to look like her. I would sing in Spanish, some French and Italian, and, of course, English.

Funny, how life can be sometimes. Toward the end of my run at Finocchio's Mrs. Eve Finocchio called me on the phone at home one day and asked me: "Why don't you do Judy and Liza tonight since you do them so well. We need

some fresh variety in our show and I know you have plenty of material available you can do!" I said to myself, "So, now it's O.K. to do impersonations!"

***Ms Bob (MsB): You worked with Jackie Phillips at Finocchio's. What was Jackie Phillips like?***

**DdA:** He was very funny and a darn good act too, but poor Jackie Phillips was a nervous wreck at times. Not on the stage, of course, but before going on, because Carroll (Wallace, the emcee,) would come over and tell him sometimes, "Oh, Jackie, Mr. (Joe) Finocchio says you have to cut down your act, because we are running late. Instead of eight jokes, do four." Carroll would tell him just a few minutes before he was to go on. Jackie would go almost into pandemonium.

It also happened to me a few times if the show was running late. That would upset me really and Carroll would say to me calmly, "Why get upset, David? You get paid just the same." Then I'd say, "It's not the pay I worry about, Carroll, it's the idea. Why cut down the better acts to make the show fit?" I never figured that one out!

But I knew how the club operated. The moment something went wrong or you did a particularly good song, somebody would get on the phone the next day to Mrs. Finocchio to get you in trouble. Especially during the reign of Joel Nobel and Cleo Fast, two different choreographers the club hired, who also doubled as hosts. After Joel left the club, Cleo came in. They were known to be instigators at times. If they wanted to get you in trouble or get you out of the club they would say, "By the way Mrs. Finocchio, David did this song last night and you know, he shouldn't do that song because it's not good for the show because of this or that." That would take place even if my song was a hit with the audience. Those so-called "day phone calls" were the worst because they were treacherous. The waiters did it and some performers were notorious for making them, too. I never did. I'm not that kind of person.

One day, when I brought up the subject, Mrs. Finocchio said to me, "Well, David, you know I listen to them, but I hear whatever I want to hear, not everything they say to me." But it didn't matter; it would do a lot of harm if she listened to even half of the treachery. If Mrs. Finocchio was in a good mood she could be the most gracious of all people, but if she was in a bad mood, well, I would try to stay always away from her.



*continued next page*





Carroll  
Wallace

**MsB: Everybody I've ever spoken to about Finocchio's has had good things to say about Carroll Wallace.**

**DdA:** He was the emcee when I was there. When he was young, I was told he was called "The most beautiful boy on stage." He was still gorgeous at the end of his career. He looked like a very elegant East Coast Jewish matron with his French twist and beautiful gowns. He had a theme song written for him; we'd call it a "pen song." The title was I'm a Singer, Though I Haven't Got a Voice, a cute, peppy song. He was not a good singer, but he knew how to sell a song. He did the lighting and the sound in between acts, too.

**MsB: Hold it. Who took care of the lighting and the sound?**

**DdA:** Carroll. The emcee had a little box in the wings with the switches to do the lighting and to control the sound. Not only did he have to emcee the show, but he had to do lights and sound for the other performers. That made it very difficult. I know because I emceed a few times and it was a hard job to please everybody there.

Once I was working at my salon, "Heri The Hairstylist" (Stylist of the Stars), when Mrs. Finocchio called and asked if she and Joe, her husband, the co-owner, could drive to the

shop to talk to me. Tila, my mom, was my secretary. She took the call. They soon arrived in their fancy car and introduced themselves to every customer in the shop. They needed me that night to emcee the show, since Carroll was sick. Mrs. Finocchio explained to me how to conduct the emceeing while I was working on one of my lady's hair. I can still see her. Later that evening René de Carlo's wife Jeannie, who worked at the club as a cocktail waitress, said that Mr. Finocchio was telling everyone downstairs: "Thank God for David de Alba. He came to emcee and rescued our show tonight!" I was surprised to hear that, since he never liked to give us compliments. Maybe our heads would get too big, or we would ask for a raise.

**MsB: What kind of songs did you perform there?**

**DdA:** I did a lot of pretty songs, like my theme song, I'm Gonna Live Until I Die, and La Macarena, not the new version the kids do nowadays, but the classic one from Spain. I also did a wonderful French medley, my tribute to Edith Piaf, which included a Shirley MacLaine song from Irma La Douce. Also I was known for La Tómbola, a mambo rock song, Arriverderci Roma, and a few well-known Garland songs. I now call those "My Finocchio Hits." Some of the locals that came in would say, "Oh, David, why don't you do this or that song?" Carroll Wallace with his dry sense of humor would say to me, "Oh, David, your friends from Mission Street are here." Mission Street was known as the Latin American neighborhood in San Francisco. I would say from the stage in English, "Does anybody here speak Spanish?" And people would say, "Oh yes, I'm from Colombia" or "I'm from here." "I'm from there." Carroll would say, "These are David's friends from Mission Street." I would say, "Carroll, these people, I don't know who the hell they are." Some would come because they heard of me. Carroll was trying to tease me always!

One time Mrs. Finocchio said, "I want you to do something different, David, for our Christmas week show, something with elegance." Bill Bullard (Finocchio's music director) arranged, practically over night, Schubert's Ave Maria for me, an arrangement which, by the way, I had to pay for. I wore a lovely new white gown designed by my friend Robin Price, an ex-performer at the club. It was the highlight of the Christmas show. There was so much applause, everybody was clapping and screaming "Bravo! Bravo!" I heard later on that Mrs. Finocchio was pleased.

Once in awhile I used to do a take-off on Norma Desmond from the movie *Sunset Boulevard*, because Mrs. Finocchio said I should do some so-called, dramatic parts.



One night Carroll Wallace said to me, "David, why don't you meet me after the show and I'll take you to breakfast in Chinatown?" Then Reggie made a crack about me being taken out to breakfast. So on my way out I said to Carroll, like Norma Desmond, "Max, I'll meet you downstairs. Have the car ready for me." (In the movie Max was the name of Norma's butler, played by Erich von Stroheim). From then on when Reggie Dahl, Russell Reed and others were leaving upstairs to go home they would shout to Carroll, "Max, I'm going home now. Get the car ready!" Carroll burst out laughing and it became a "classic" line from then on. Gee, I miss those moments!

**MsB: Speaking of going home, didn't performers have to enter and leave the club dressed as men?**

**DdA:** That was the policy. If there were people on the street waiting to see the performers in the show, the curious, the fans or johns, they wouldn't recognize anybody, because we looked so different out of make-up. They would say, "Who are you?" "Oh, were you that one?" Everyone came to the club without make-up except Florencio de los Santos and another Eve-ette friend of his. He was really a transvestite and we all knew it, even the management. He never took his make-up off. He actually lived in drag. On the street he would put his waist length hair up in a bun and tone down his make-up. When he got to Finocchio's, he would go heavy on the eye shadow, the eyeliner, lashes, and so on.

One time Bob MacKenzie from Channel 2 TV came to the club to do his famous Segment 2 (Segment 2 is the magazine portion of Channel 2's local news) and he asked, "Florencio, do you walk on the street in drag?" And he said, "Oh, yes I walk in drag all the time, and I tell people I work at Finocchio's." He shouldn't have said that because we were not supposed to do that ever. He said it on TV and Mrs. Finocchio accepted it, because there was a double standard at the club as far as the Eve-ettes were concerned. As Carroll Wallace used to say to me, "At Finocchio's some people are considered 'pets' and the rest of us were considered 'pests.'"

**MsB: Was Florencio trying to pass as a woman?**

**DdA:** Yes, Florencio never had the operation, you know. Sometimes different people in the cast would advise him, "Florencio, be careful because one of these men, if they find out you're a man, they're going to kill you." I don't know if the men knew, but, anyway, he walked on the streets in drag all the time. He was a Filipino boy. He didn't have a

beard and he looked feminine anyway. With his hair loose and a little eyeliner and so on, he looked like a real girl. One or two of the Eve-ettes got away with that kind of thing, but everyone else had to come and go without make-up. Florencio and I got along very well, really, though we were not close friends.

**MsB: Did you try to pass as a woman outside the club?**

**DdA:** No, I never went into that kind of thing. Dressing up was only for show purposes for me.

**MsB: Did you ever have problems with Mrs. Finocchio?**

**DdA:** One time word was out that some of the musicians and some of the entertainers were complaining that I was changing my music too often. Well, I did not want to get stale, you see. There was never any real rehearsal time with the trio. Carroll said to me, "David, don't change your

*continued page 37*



David de Alba





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music so much, just repeat your songs." I said, "I'm spending a lot of money on new arrangements and no one here seems to appreciate it." Russell Reed heard about this. He was a very heavy act. They called him "The Ton of Fun." His act was in part about his weight. He would always call Mrs. Finocchio "Madame." One evening he said to her, "You see, Madame Finocchio, I never change my act." She replied, "That's the problem." Russell then said to me, "David, I'm going to have a new act, new costume, and new make-up. Don't tell anyone." He wouldn't even tell me the name of the new song.

One day he said, "David, tell everyone to come to my dressing room before the fourth show." I got all the Eve-ettes out of their dressing rooms. His new song was called *Joshua*. (singing) "Joshua, Joshua, oh what a lovely boy you are." I thought the song was awfully cute. And out comes Russell, what a sight; an older, heavy man, dressed like a little girl with a Shirley Temple wig. He looked more like Bette Davis in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*. Then Reggie Dahl and some of the Eve-ettes started screaming, laughing, and carrying on. Russell finally broke the new act and toward the end of the night he went over to Mrs. Finocchio and said, "Madame Finocchio, what did you think of my act tonight?" There was a very cold feeling. I don't remember if she said nothing or if she just said a "Yea." He looked stunned.

Carroll started teasing Russell, rubbing salt in the wound, by singing a few bars of *Joshua* as he went down the stairs every night from then on. Russell hated that! A few weeks later, Russell Reed was no longer in the show. I said to myself, "Isn't it sad. This man put together a new costume and a new arrangement that cost at least \$200. It wasn't any worse than anything else he'd ever done." As Mrs. Finocchio would say to me, "David, we don't fire people. We just let them go. The show has to change sometimes..."

Mr. and Mrs. Finocchio always had an answer ready for everything. They saw themselves as the MGM or Buzby Berkeley of female impersonation. They didn't know anything about choreography, really, but at least they were open-minded about hiring female impersonators. And they weren't prejudiced. They didn't care if you were Spanish, Asian or African American. I have to give them credit for that. They kept the establishment going for 63 years. But to say that they were great impresarios, they were not. Some of the times they hired very good talent. But sometimes one of the Eve-ettes would try to get one of their friends in, and he was hired, not because he was a particularly good performer, but because he had a connection, and it showed.

### **MsB: When did you leave Finocchio's?**

**DdA:** I left California in 1987. My friend, Paul's job ended due to a corporate merger and he found a new job in Santa Fé, New Mexico. We sold our beautiful home in Santa Cruz, Calif. I also sold my beauty salon, which was very hard thing for me to, because I'd had a lot of fun there with my customers and my mom, Tila. The hardest thing of all was when I got a call from Los Angeles. The owner of "An Evening at La Cage" was opening a new club in San Francisco, a block away from Finocchio's. He said, "David, we would like to you be our Judy (Garland)." I said, "I'm sorry, sir. This is the saddest phone call of my life, because I have to turn your offer down. I'm closing escrow tomorrow on my house and I'm leaving the state for good!"

It's a good thing David didn't change his plans, just to become La Cage's Judy. San Francisco's "Evening at La Cage" didn't last long. Perhaps being across the street from Finocchio's proved too much competition? David spent several years in Santa Fé, then he and Paul moved to Arizona. Now they're thinking of moving to Las Vegas, where there'll be more theatrical opportunities for David. David says that next year he's going to "put together all my Finocchio's memories" as either a book or CD-ROM. But until then, remember to visit, "David de Alba's Theatrical Arts and Tributes," David's award winning web site, which Paul maintains <[www.ctaz.com/~pryner/](http://www.ctaz.com/~pryner/)>. There you'll find more information about David, the stars he's worked with and his Judy Garland collection/obsession. While you're linked, be sure to click on "David Sings" and listen to his mp3 files. Close your eyes and you'll swear it's Judy. The latest addition to his site is his popular series Celebrity Interviews. Other images of him sparkle throughout the Internet. He was honored with a pictorial on the TG SuperStars Website, <[www.tgfmall.com/tgstars/photos/david/david.html](http://www.tgfmall.com/tgstars/photos/david/david.html)> and was inducted into TransGender Forum's Gallery of Greats: <[www.3dcom.com/tgfs/gallery/dealba992.html](http://www.3dcom.com/tgfs/gallery/dealba992.html)>.

Ms BOB is a collector of gender-related books, magazines and ephemera. Currently she is seeking several issues of *Female Mimics* #6 (Aug, 1965), #1 (Winter, 1970-1971), *National Cotillion* 1973, Vol. 6, #3 (Fall, 1975) and *Female Mimics Special* (Winter, 1977-78). For used and hard to find items visit Ms Bob's On-Line Book Shoppe & Ephemera Emporium on the Transgender Forum Shopping Mall. She can be contacted c/o Lady Like or at <[mrsbob@tgforum.com](mailto:mrsbob@tgforum.com)>.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Nation. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.





# North American Support Groups

## National US Membership Organizations

**International Foundation for Gender Education.** PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA 02454. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org><www.ifge.org>

**Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc.**, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$40 includes the monthly publication "Transgender Community News." Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(I)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <www.ren.org>

**Society for the Second Self (SSS)**, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the Femme Mirror quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com>

**AK**  
Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, PO Box 670349, Chugiak, AK, 99567

**AL**  
Madison County Gender Center, c/o Metropolitan Community Church, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville, AL, 35810

**AZ**  
A Rose, PO Box 8108, Glendale, AZ, 85312-8108

Alpha-Zeta (Tri-Ess), PO Box 1738, Tempe, AZ, 85280-1738  
Evolere Transgendered Foundation, 1830 E. Broadway Blvd. #124-269, Tucson, AZ, 85719  
Tau Upsilon, 8802 E. Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, AZ, 85710

**CA**  
3rd Sect, c/o Sacto. Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA, 95821-1456  
Access Point, PO Box 7180, Los Osos, CA, 93402

Alpha Chapter, 409 N. Pacific Coast Hwy. #320, Redondo Beach, CA, 90277  
American Transsexual Education Center, 1626 n. Wilcox Ave. #584, Hollywood, CA, 90028  
Androgyny, PO Box 480740, (Santa Monica) Los Angeles, CA, 90048  
Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA, 92517  
CD Social Group, PO Box 224, Montrose, CA, 91021  
Center for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community, 3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA, 92103

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, CA, 90808  
Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA, 94527-2885

Emergence-Support for Christian TS, 208 W. Manning, Reedley, CA, 93654

FPSG, #634 PO Box 410-990, San Francisco, CA, 94141-0990

Gender Awareness League, c/o Grace Bredow, PO Box 46062, Los Angeles, CA, 90046

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA, 90714-0816

L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center/ The Village, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles, CA, 90038

Ladies Knight Out, PO Box 19608-179, Irvine, CA, 92713

Neutral Corner, PO Box 19008, San Diego, CA, 92159

Omega Chi, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA, 92686

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 South Main St., Suite 104, Pomona, CA, 91765

Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA, 95170-0730

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA, 95821-1456

San Francisco Gender Information (SFGI), PO Box 423602, San Francisco, CA, 94142-3602

Sigma Sigma Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA, 96151

Silicon Valley Gender Association, 175 Stockton, San Jose, CA,

Society for Initiatives & Services in TG Issues, PO Box 30844, Oakland, CA, 94604-0844

Society for Second Self (Tri-Ess), PO Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275

TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA, 94142-6486

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, PO Box 6541, San Jose, CA, 95150-6541

Trans-Action, 973 Market St. Suite 500, San Francisco, CA, 94103

Transsexual Support Group, The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th St., Long Beach, CA, 90814

Tri Chi Tri-Ess, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275  
U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA, 90703-3182

Ventura Transgender Outreach, c/o GLCC, 3503 Arundell Circle, Suite 3-A, Ventura, CA, 93003

Nadia Cabezas c/o Jeff Faircloth, 191 Golden Ave, San Francisco, CA, 94102

**CO**  
Delta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 16208, Denver, CO, 80216-6208

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc., 1455 Ammons St., Suite 100, Lakewood, CO, 80215-4993

Phoneix Project, 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora, CO, 80017

Pueblo TV/TS Support Group, 1144 Clarmont, Pueblo, CO, 81004-2808

Teenage Kids of TSs, c/o Laurie Ciccotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora, CO, 80017

**CT**  
Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, CT, 6034  
connecticutuView, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT, 6460

GBSING, c/o PO Box 162, Haddam, CT, 6438

Twenty (XX) Club Inc., PO Box 387, Hartford, CT, 06141-0387

**D.C.**  
Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 50724, Washington, D.C., 20091-0724

**DE**  
Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE, 19808

**FL**  
Animas, PO Box 420309, Miami, FL, 33242  
Gamma Chi Beta, PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL, 33951-0045

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches, c/o Compass, 1700 N. Dixie Highway, W. Palm Beach, FL, 33407

Lauderdale Area TG Support, c/o Diane Arnold 3990 NW 42nd Ave, Lauderdale Lakes, FL, 33319

Mu Beta Gamma Tri-Ess, PO Box 4126, Hialeah, FL, 33014

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville, FL, 32245-5765

Phi Epsilon Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, FL, 32790-3261

Starburst, PO Box 6822, Clearwater, FL, 33756-6822

Tau Lambda, Tri-Ess, PO Box 3426, Tallahassee, FL, 32315-3426

Trans Alliance of Gainesville, PO Box 143102, Gainesville, FL, 32614-3102

**GA**  
AGE, PO Box 98330, Atlanta, GA, 30359  
Montgomery Institute, PO Box 33311, Decatur, GA, 30033

Sigma Epsilon, Tri-Ess, PO Box 272, Rosewell, GA, 30077-0272

**HI**  
Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, HI, 96812

**IA**  
Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 1925, Clinton, IA, 52733-1925

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52406

QCAD Group, PO Box 1534, Davenport, IA, 52809

River City Gender Alliance, PO Box 680, Council Bluffs, IA, 51502-0680

**ID**  
Tri-States Transgender Group, PO Box 6691, Boise, ID, 83707

**IL**  
Central Illinois Gender Assoc (CIGA), P.O. Box 3082, Champaign, IL, 60826-3082

Chi, Tri-Ess, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL, 60191-0040

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL, 60657

Sunday Society, PO Box 478850, Chicago, IL, 60647

Transgender Outreach Project, PO Box 441, Urbana, IL, 61801

**IN**  
IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN, 46250

Transgender Outreach of N. Indiana, Ltd., PO Box 2372, Portage, IN, 46368

**KS**  
KCCAF (Kansas City Crossdressers & Friends), PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS, 66204

Wichita Transgender Alliance, PO Box 3002, Wichita, KS, 67201-3002

**KY**  
BGB (a.k.a. BlueGrass Belles), PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky, 40250

**LA**  
Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA, 70156-6836

**MA**  
COMPASS, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA, 02454-0229

Investments, PO Box 2194, Orleans, MA, 02653-3160

Sunshine Club, PO Box 564, Hadley, MA, 01035-0564

TG Support Group, 36 Alpine Rd, Wayland, MA, 1778

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 71, Waltham, MA, 02454-0071

## MD

Chi Epsilon Sigma, PO Box 505, Brooklandville, MD, 21022-0505

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD, 21206-0337

Tran\*Quility Gender Information Society, Inc., c/o GLCCB, 241 W. Chase Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201

Trans Info Project (FtM), PO Box 1145, Greenbelt, MD, 20770

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, c/o Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore, MD, 21201

Washington-Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 1994, Silver Spring, MD, 20915

**ME**  
Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor, ME, 04402-1894

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME, 4101

**MI**  
After Six, PO Box 126, Comstock Park, MI, 49321

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI, 48068-1245

Friends North, Inc., PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI, 49685-0562

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI, 49501

**MN**  
Beta Gamma, Tri-Ess, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN, 55408



City of Lakes Crossgender Community, PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN, 55414  
Gender Education Center, PO Box 1861, Maple Grove, MN, 55311

#### MO

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, MO, 63117

#### MS

Beta Chi, Tri-Ess, PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS, 39286-1253

Southern Belle Society, PO Box 3112, Gulfport, MS, 39505

#### NC

Carolina Transensual Alliance (CTA), 112 Edwardia, Charlotte, NC, 27409

Kappa Beta, Tri-Ess, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, NC, 28220-2101

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, NC, 28814

Sigma Rho Delta Tri-Ess, PO Box 90141, Raleigh, NC, 27675-0141

Triad Gender Association, PO Box 2264, Jamestown, NC, 27282-2264

#### NH

Tri-Ess New England, PO Box 7681, Nashua, NH, 03060-7681

#### NJ

Chi Delta Mu, Tri-Ess, PO Box 1, River Edge, NJ, 07661-0001

Epsilon Mu Gamma, PO Box 4, Three Bridges, NJ, 8887

New Jersey Support, PO Box 9378, Trenton, NJ, 8650

Sigma Nu Rho, Tri-Ess, PO Box 9255, Trenton, NJ, 8650

#### NM

Phi (Fiesta), Tri-Ess, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, NM, 87109

#### NV

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256, Reno, NV, 89511-8981

Transgender Support Las Vegas, Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, NV

#### NY

Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY, 14226

CD\*Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, NY, 14692

CNY TransMenace, 405 Howard St, #1, Syracuse, NY, 13203

Expressing Our Nature, Inc., c/o Pride Community Center, PO Box 6608, 745 N Salina St., Syracuse, NY, 13217-6608

Gender Identity Project at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, One Little West 12th Street, New York, NY, 10014

Lambda Chi Lambda, Tri-Ess, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, NY, 13326

LIFE, PO Box 1311, Watertown, NY, 11976-1311

Metropolitan Gender Network, 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY, 10014

Rochester Transgender organization, C/O Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, 179 Atlantic Avenue, Rochester, NY, 14607

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, NY, 12212-3604

Transgender Network, PO Box 753, New Paltz, NY, 12561

#### OH

Alpha Omega, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, OH, 44054-0053

Crossport, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH, 45204

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH, 43068-0287

It's Time Ohio!, PO Box 21310, Columbus, OH, 43221

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Cleveland, OH, 44129

Transfamily of Cleveland, 2121 S Green Rd, S Euclid, OH, 44121-3300

#### OK

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, 3334 W. Main Ste. 203, Norman, OK, 73072

Sooner Diversity, PO Box 575, Norman, OK, 73070

#### OR

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Ave., La Grande, OR, 97850

Northwest Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, OR, 97208

Phoenix Rising Foundation, 620 SW 5th Avenue Ste. 710, Portland, OR, 97204-1422

Rho Gamma, PO Box 5551, Grants Pass, OR, 97527

#### PA

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th St #261, Erie, PA, 16505

Renaissance - Lehigh Valley, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA, 18106

Renaissance, Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA, 19087

Renaissance, Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA, 17105-2122

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA, 15230

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, PA, 15206

#### TN

Memphis TransGender Alliance, PO Box 11052, Memphis, TN, 38111-1052

Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, TN, 37209

#### TX

Alpha Tau, PO Box 1398, Georgetown, TX, 78627

Austin Second Image, PO Box 679, Leander, TX, 78641

Central Texas Transgender Society, PO Box 300487, Austin, TX, 78705

Epsilon Tau, Tri-Ess, PO Box 945, New Waverly, TX, 77358

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, PO Box 90335, Houston, TX, 77090

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous, 6804 E Hiway 6 S #334, Houston, TX, 77083

ICTLEP, PO Drawer 35477, Houston, Texas, 77235-5477

Metroplex CD Club, PO Box 141924, Irving, TX, 75014-1924

Nu Epsilon Tau, PO Box 14096, Pantego, TX, 76094

Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE), Peggy Rudd, c/o 8880 Bellaire B2 #104, Houston, TX, 77036

Tau Chi, Tri-Ess, 8800 Bellaire B2, Ste. 104, Houston, TX

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (T.A.T.S.), PO Box 142, Bellaire, TX, 77401

#### UT

An Engendered Species, PO box 11897, Salt Lake City, UT, 84147

Western Transsexuals Support Network, 4667 Holladay Blvd, #2, Salt Lake City, UT, 84117

#### VA

Chi Epsilon Sigma tri-Ess, c/o PO Box 382, Norge, VA, 2317-0382

Trans-Gender Education Association, PO Box 16036, Arlington, VA, 22215

#### VT

TRANS, PO Box 5687, Burlington, VT, 5402

#### WA

Bellingham Gender Group, PO Box 2004, Bellingham, WA, 98227

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA, 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA, 98122-2843

#### WI

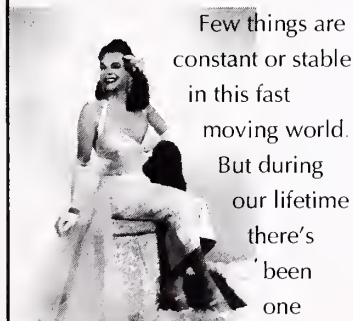
Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI, 53214

Madison Transgender Group, 14W Mifflin St, Madison, WI, 53704

#### WV

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV, 25724

## The Queen is Dead! Long Live the Queen!



Few things are constant or stable in this fast moving world. But during our lifetime there's been one truth in the crossdressing community. One institution whose focus has remained constant since the first time you put on a pair of pantyhose; that was steadfast as the North Star even before the invention of pantyhose. That unchanging rock in the firmament was

Finocchio's, a nightclub "where the most beautiful women on stage are men." Finocchio's was in San Francisco "at the same location since 1936." But on November 27, 1999, after 63 years, Finocchio's chiseled off her make-up, hung up her tits, and went dark. San Francisco Poet Laureate Lawrence Ferlinghetti said it best, "What a drag."

The queen is dead! So, long live the queen! But who is she? Who inherits Finocchio's mantle of baubles, bangles and bugle beads? Which venue has the distinction of being the oldest showroom in America dedicated

to professional female impersonation? Have you been there? Is it in your hometown?

LadyLike and Transgender Forum are beginning a search. We want to discover who's been carrying the torch the longest. Which are the **three oldest clubs** featuring drag acts at least three nights a week, ten months a year. Is there a club in Atlanta? Maybe there's an older one in Seattle? Not a bar with an occasional show, this has to be a nightclub with tulle as its foundation.

Send us letters. Send us tips. We'll follow every lead you provide and sometime next year

LadyLike and Transgender Forum will run a series of articles, one on each of these venerable institutions. Join the search for community history! Send your nominations of old clubs to the old queens at LadyLike:

LadyLike/CDS

P.O. Box 61263

King of Prussia, PA 19406.





# Little Known Facts About Hosiery

- Queen Elizabeth received her first pair of silk stockings in 1589.
- Egyptians wore the first socks – bulky knits with big separate toes.
- On May 15, 1940, the day the first nylon stockings went on sale, four million pairs were sold.
- When World War II broke out in America, the sale of nylon stockings ceased. Women resorted to drawing faux seams up the backs of their legs with eyebrow pencil to simulate the look of stockings.
- When nylons returned to the stores, Macy sold 50,000 pairs in 6 hours time. And, 40,000 women stood all night in a torrential rainstorm to buy nylons from a lingerie shop in Pittsburgh.
- Pantyhose were created to meet the fashion needs of the mini-skirt.
- Nearly all women purchase nylons throughout the year. But, during the holiday months, not only do they dress up more, hence wear their hosiery more frequently, but also tend to purchase more elegant, pricey brands. And so, before you go out and buy those expensive little items, here's some great information on how to better choose, dress, and even repair your hosiery.
- If you fall between two sizes, purchase the next one up. Snug fitting nylons will run and get holes much faster.
- For a smooth, close fit, choose hose with a good percentage of spandex.
- Put your hose on from the feet up – making sure each area is on properly before continuing.
- Moisturize your hands before dressing. Soft cotton gloves help as well.
- Remove jewelry before you put on your hosiery.
- After dressing, dampen your hands and carefully smooth hosiery upward for a more perfect fit.
- Avoid detergents with chlorine bleach.
- Wash inside out and in a lingerie bag. This avoids damage and also prevents lint buildup.
- Never put your nylons in a dryer. Roll up in a towel, squeeze, then lay out or hang to dry.
- Store your hosiery in a lingerie bag to avoid snags and pulls.
- Clear polish is still best to stop runs.
- Avoid shoes with Velcro closures.
- Finding the right brand and style of pantyhose is a little like finding the right lipstick. There's something to appeal to everyone, but you may have to sample a few first.





# Show Us Your Hosiery!



▲ J. O. Merch, PO Box 2672,  
Austin TX 78768



Michelle, Ohio FWD266 ▲

Jackie B, PO Box 312,  
Nuevo CA 92567 ▼



▲ Leslie J O'Hara, Albany, NY  
lesliejohara@aol.com



▲ JoAnn Worth,  
PO Box 460126  
Escondido CA 92046-0126



◀ Ms. Delaware N.  
Hudson, c/o Chancy's II,  
110 Bleecker St., Utica  
NY 13501

PJ, PO Box 9038, Colo  
Springs CO 80932 ▼



Gayle Jones ▼



▲ Sydney Boyd, 9006 Hwy 76S,  
Stanton, TN 38069-3622



# Contour/Highlight Your Face

Bring out the best aspects of your bone structure with some easy makeup tricks. Remember these simple rules: lighter objects visually appear to come forward while darker objects seem to recede in space.

## Oval Face

- If your face is oval, highlight your bone structure, paying special attention to your cheekbones. Work with your regular shade (or a shade slightly lighter) of your foundation, and a creamy or liquid bronzer. Blend the foundation just above your cheek bones. Then apply a bit of the bronzer to your forehead and directly under cheekbones for a sun-kissed glow. Tip: Blend and check your reflection in daylight.

## Round Face

- To make a face look less rounded, accentuate the hollows of the cheekbones. Highlight above cheekbones with your foundation. Then lightly dust bronzing powder underneath. Slick on a lipstick that is slightly darker than your lips. Tip: Don't forget your eyes: Brush on chocolate shadow and add a few coats of mascara.

## Square Face

- Soften your jaw. Dust bronzing powder across the entire jaw line, then dust with loose powder. The slight darkness this creates will make the area appear to recede. Tip: Play up your eyes by curling your lashes.

## Long Face

- Blend lighter foundation around the jaw line at the chin to make the area appear shorter. Then apply highlighter at forehead to visually shorten it as well. Tip: Use a darker neutral shadow or pencil along the upper lashline.

Oval

Round

Square

Long







# Mirror Mirror



▲ Jackie, NH FWD#3392



▲ Pamela, E. Penna. FWD#2390



▲ Judy, Penna. FWD#3768

▼ Christine, N.C., FWD#3758



▼ Cena Williams, FWD#2710



Victoria Lecherri, 46244  
Beauvais, Macomb  
MI 48044 ▼



Jonnie Ballard, PO Box 20195,  
Billings MT 59104 ▼



▲ Priscilla, Chicago, Ill.  
FWD#107





▲ Melanie Okubo, 1370 Trancas #164, Napa CA 94558

Telzey Adams, POBox 195,  
Berkeley CA 94701 ▼



▲ Bobbie A. Patterson, POBox 3260, Frederick MD 21705-3260



▲ Donna, NJ FWD#2422



◀ Lisa Ashley,  
PO Box 14701  
Toledo OH 43614

Lori S. Oregon, LoriTriS@terragon.com ▼



Lillian Farrel, FWD3267 ▼



Tammi Cason, ID  
tammi@micron.net ▼





# On My Mind...



One of our subscribers wrote me this letter: "Dear JoAnn, after reading a lot of letters like the one Roxy wrote in issue #43, I'd like to know what you think about this growing fight between gay and straight crossdressers.

"You do a lot of work for the TV community but it is very hard to build a community when parts of that community will have nothing to do with each other. Many straight crossdressers would like to make a break with the gay part so they can be more acceptable to mainstream society.

"Many gay crossdressers distrust many of their straight sisters because they think they are being told how to act, dress, and who to date. Gay crossdressers also think that a lot of their straight sisters just don't like gays. You only have to look at [the letters] page to see this. Most of your letter writers go out of their way to, in one way or another, say how straight they are.

"If the TV community is to have any kind of real political power we have to work together because its the best way for us to protect our rights.

"Sydney"

Thank you Sydney for your thoughtful letter. It touches on an important topic so I pulled it from the Letters section to feature it here. Hope you don't mind it being in the spotlight. With regard to the Letters page, I wouldn't take it as a representative sample of the TV portion of the larger TG community. All that you can truly say is that these letters represent a sampling of LadyLike readers. In my personal experience, I don't see that much tension between gay and straight crossdressers, but my experiences are based on interactions I see in the Northeastern part of the country. Your experiences are obviously different. However, I agree with you 110% that we need to work together, especially when it comes to Civil Rights.

How about the rest of you? Do you feel there is real tension between gay and straight crossdressers? And, I think it would be useful to distinguish between the drag queens who perform on stage and then dump the drag off stage, and those gay men who crossdress for the same pleasures that straight men do. Let us know what you think and we'll put it in the Letters pages.

How 'bout that election? Talk about a cliffhanger. As I write this, we still don't know who the next president will be. But one thing is sure, regardless who wins, he will not have an easy time as president. Neither candidate received a mandate from the populace.

What does that mean for us as transgendered people? Well, the Republicans still hold a majority, albeit slight, in both the House and Senate. That means no **Employment Non-Discrimination Act** (ENDA) bill for anybody in the next two years. Maybe that's a good thing. Gives us a little more time to get our act together.

Also, the Democrats won't get to nominate any Supreme Court Justices or new federal judges. But just maybe they will be able to block any Bush nominations just like the Republicans did with President Clinton's nominees. Politics sucks, don't it?

This issue is kinda special. Our profile girl is Guava Chiffon who now has the distinction of being the only person to ever appear on a LadyLike cover twice. She was the cover photo for issue #30. This issue is also distinguished by the use of digital photos for the first time. Yes, all those photos of Guava, including the 8x10 photos (about 45Mb worth of data) are all digital. Thanks to Rick Allred and his professional equipment, we were able to get these high quality pix. However, we are still not accepting digital photos by email for the magazine because the quality of most digital cameras is still too low for print use. Sorry.

And finally, there's still time to send in your photo with your car, motorcycle, truck, or whatever gets you goin' fast. We'll feature **Hot Rods & Hot Babes** in issue #45, due out in April.

**JoAnn Roberts**



# THE TRANSGENDER FUND:

## *What Are We Doing For Our Youth?*

Whenever I learn of one of our transgender friends files for divorce, one of the first things that pops into my mind is, what extent gender identity issues played into the breakup. Divorce is complex. Transgender factors are not always the principal or most direct reason these marriages fail. But, I can never help thinking how things may have been different had they been able to come to grips earlier in life with the totality of who they truly are.

My generation went through adolescence and young adulthood during the last throes of the “Dark Ages” of transgender evolution. We had no support groups, no meetings, no newsletters, no magazines other than those one found in adult book stores, no knowledgeable therapists, no safe havens and, believe it or not, we didn’t even have the Internet.

What many of us did have were guilt, confusion, fear, anxiety, and loneliness. We dealt with what we were handed in so many different ways. Some were able to freely accept themselves. If their family and friends had difficulty, their answer was, “Get over it!” That wasn’t me. Instead, I simply practiced the art of sublimation. I relegated a big piece of my soul to a back shelf, and for decades struggled to keep it there. Others found different options. Many lived in denial. Unfortunately, some drifted into self-destructive behaviors. No course was ever easy.

While admittedly there is a great deal still undone, today the resources available are infinitely more accessible and helpful than when I was young. From time to time, I wonder how my life would be different today, if I knew then what I know now; if I had the support then that I have now. Indeed, how different would we all be in our adult lives... our relationships, our marriages, our children, and our careers? I am not implying that my generation harbors deep regrets. Personally, I do not. Nevertheless, these are interesting questions, aren’t they?

As a logical extension of this train of thought, several of us involved with The Transgender Fund made an informal assessment of our Community’s attention to our pre-teen to young adult transgender youth. What is being done today to make their lives easier than ours back then?

While we were encouraged by the efforts of some organizations, for the most part we as a community are only in the very early stages of establishing practical resources specifically geared for these children. Some cities have GLBT agencies with youth efforts underway, but the “T” is often a stepchild to their G-L-B core. I have had two highly respected agency directors tell me they struggle with T-kids, they’re the “square peg in a round hole.” It is difficult to understand that when dealing with us it is principally a “gender identity”, not a “sexual orientation” issue. Other kids in these GLB centers shun the trans-youth. The therapists the centers bring in have little or no experience with t-people, let alone trans-youth. One therapist told me that these children are “neither fish, nor fowl,” i.e., neither classically gay, nor classically straight in their eyes.

Complicating the issue is that the available choices of role models and mentors, so vital to any development program, are often inadequate. And, every bit as disconcerting is the fact that when some agencies find a transgender person stepping up to be a mentor, s/he often has so many overwhelming, unresolved personal issues that they are not well-suited for

the task. One trans-youth support group had two active street workers as group facilitators. These kids are highly vulnerable. They often have been kicked out of their homes, rejected by schoolmates and teachers, unable to get or hold a job, and beaten down by a whole host of other things that do nothing but further traumatize and distance them from general society. Many have absolutely nothing to cling to. Prostitution and/or drugs, if not a way out, have been ways for many to survive, at least temporarily. If they did not realize that fact before participating in some of these groups, regrettably they may after. I have seen it. I know it happens. Ironically, it is out of the frying pan, into the fire.

Lest you think these problems are indigenous to urban trans-youth, think again. Drugs, isolation, depression, suicide and high-risk behaviors pervade every socio-economic layer of our youth.

If there ever was a forgotten generation, it is today’s transgender youth. Déjà vu. Could it be the Dark Ages never disappeared for some?

The Transgender Fund wants to make 2001 the Year of Our Transgender Children. We are working to support a new Select Initiative —The Trans-youth Council. The Council is a collaborative effort among community groups, activists, therapists, members of the clergy, educators, and concerned individuals. Its goals are to effectively deal with our youth on two levels. The first is to address the immediate support needed to stabilize their lives, and help them develop into viable human beings. However, what we witness in these children are symptoms of even greater societal difficulties. Therefore, the Council’s second goal is to attack the root causes of their problems, the pervasive ignorance that breeds the rejection, ridicule, discrimination, and alienation of these children. By fostering outreach efforts to parents, teachers, student bodies, churches and other centers of influence, progress will be made — indeed, progress must be made — that will make a difference in their lives.

Ignorance is our number one enemy and must be annihilated. It is said that Ignorance breeds Fear. Fear breeds Hate. And Hate breeds Violence. I prefer to emphasize the positive: Understanding breeds Respect. Respect breeds Acceptance. And, Acceptance breeds Freedom of Expression.

It has always been my philosophy that when you do good things for others, good things come back to you. In supporting The Transgender Fund’s Trans-youth Select Initiative, you will find fulfillment in knowing that you are giving children the chance that you never had. You are giving children an opportunity to effectively deal with their gender identity at a point in their lives that can help them set a course for a stable, successful life... a life that has as its foundation self-esteem and the freedom to be true to themselves and true to others.

But there is more. In supporting this Initiative, you are working to break down that oppressive wall of ignorance that profoundly affects all of our lives without regard to age. Everyone will be the beneficiary.

That’s why we say: Make a Difference. Make a Donation. Make it Today!

Thank you very, very much.

Diane Dale/Chair

**The Transgender Fund is a national, independent, 501[c][3] charitable foundation dedicated to advancing the interests of the Transgender Community. Contributions to the fund are tax deductible to the extent allowable by federal law. Please help with any amount you can afford.**



# Where Can I Find...?

If you're looking for information about the next transgender event, or other transgendered people to talk to, or a therapist for counseling, or the latest news from the political front, or a local transgender support group... Look no further, you're looking for Transgender Forum.

Visit us today on the World Wide Web. We are the only weekly publication in the transgender community, plus we offer resources second to none. Want to know where to buy... anything? Visit our Shopping mall where you'll find some of the best vendors in the transgender community. Want your own private email account or a personal web page? We offer that, too, no extra charge. All this for less than a dollar a week? You better believe it! Check out the free edition, then subscribe to get to all the goodies.

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